

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR JOSE SEGARRA



Dear Killeen:

The annual Killeen Christmas Parade will wind its way through historic Downtown Killeen December 14, and I invite you to come see what's new in the oldest part of the city that day or any day.

While we work with partners in the business community to understand needs and spur economic activity, City staff is working diligently to make the area clean, safe and inviting.

Our Public Works Department sweeps streets three times per week, maintains vegetation weekly and cleans sidewalks annually. They also regularly remove garbage and maintain alleys and rights-of-way.

Killeen Police Department maintains a presence at its downtown location and has dedicated an officer full time to address safety through crime prevention strategies and relationships with businesses and residents. The officer also acts as a liaison to the homeless population.

The Recreation Services and Community Development Departments work to make the downtown area inviting through maintaining public buildings and grounds, lighting, benches and other amenities. They also host events like the Christmas Parade and programming at the Killeen Arts & Activities Center and Main Library to draw visitors and create awareness and interest.

The Planning & Development Department is working directly with Downtown business owners through a newly established Merchant's Association. The department also has incentives for façade and sign improvements. New wayfinding signage and murals in public spaces add to the area's historic charm.

Established businesses, new businesses, events and public art are some of the many reasons you should make the trip downtown. I think you'll be pleasantly surprised to see all the activity. Whether it's the Killeen Christmas Parade or curiosity that brings you, please come visit and be part of the revitalization of historic Downtown Killeen.

STREET MAINTENANCE PROGRAM BEGINS

The last issue of City Insight announced the start of a new Street Maintenance Fee. This issue proudly reports that maintenance is nearly complete on the first scheduled group of streets.

While the \$1.70 per month residential fee just took effect July 1, City Council committed \$330,000 in the budget to jumpstart the maintenance program. That funding allowed City staff to contract work on more than 15 lane miles of road in northeast Killeen.

The first streets receiving attention are generally bounded by Rancier Avenue, Westcliff Road and Cedarhill Drive. The type of maintenance being performed is slurry seal,

a process that involves applying an emulsion to the entire road surface to create a smoother driving surface and extend the life of the street.

In the future, you can expect to see large, contiguous groupings of streets receiving maintenance treatments in the late summer or early fall months.

The schedule for street maintenance is based on a worst first approach meaning those most in need of attention should be prioritized. To aid in this prioritization, a new street condition study is underway. It is expected to be complete in the coming months and will be made available for public review.

Not all streets can benefit from the Street Maintenance Fee. The funding may only be used for maintenance of current roads not extension, construction or reconstruction.

Killeen has a long way to go with over 2,000 lane miles of streets, but you'll be glad to know that progress has begun.



LAY WREATHS TO REMEMBER

Since 2006, our community has gathered each holiday season to remember those laid to rest at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery. We will gather again this year for the annual Wreath Project.

The Friends of Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery invite you to join in preparing and laying wreaths this November. The Friends lead the community effort with one simple



goal: to lay a holiday wreath at every grave in the veterans cemetery.

There are now more than 8,000 graves in the cemetery, and it will take thousands of volunteers to ensure that each one has a wreath. Make time this busy season for this special tribute to remember veterans and family members laid to rest in Killeen's veterans cemetery.

WREATH PROJECT SCHEDULE

Wreath Preparation

Saturday, November 23 - 10 am
Killeen Special Events Center
3301 S. W.S. Young Dr.

Wreath Laying Ceremony

Saturday, November 30 - 10 am
State Veterans Cemetery
11463 S. SH 195

Wreath Retrieval

Saturday, January 11 - 10 am
State Veterans Cemetery
11463 S. SH 195

www.wreathsforvets.org

I'M DREAMING OF A GREEN CHRISTMAS

The City of Killeen is working to make it easier for you to choose to be green during the holidays and year-round.

Live Christmas trees are beautiful but inevitably turn brown. When your Christmas tree loses its green, don't place it curbside to go to the landfill, recycle it at the annual Christmas tree recycling event. January 4 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Special Events Center, 3301 S. W.S. Young Drive. Be sure all decorations including tinsel, ornaments and lights are removed so the tree can be mulched.

The Killeen Recycling Center, Transfer Station and two recycling trailers are ready to receive all that holiday waste that accumulates like cardboard boxes, wrapping paper and food packaging. Much of what you throw away is recyclable. We accept all paper, cardboard, plastics #1 and #2, steel, aluminum and tin cans and clear, brown and green glass free.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY COLLECTIONS

Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Wednesday, a non-collection day for residential trash. Both eves are on Tuesday, and regular curbside collection will remain on schedule.

Killeen Recycling Center will be closed December 24 and 25 and January 1, but the recycling trailers will be open

Killeen Transfer Station will be closed December 24 and 25 and January 1. When open, residents can dispose of up to 300 pounds of excess trash once per month.

The City is again offering its free collection of excess holiday trash. On your special collection day, you may place your roll-out

container plus bags up to 33 gallons or boxes up to eight cubic feet at curbside for pick-up. Make sure to leave at least four feet between your can and additional bags and boxes. All waste should be placed curbside by 7 am on your scheduled special day.

SPECIAL COLLECTION SCHEDULE

<u>Regular Day</u>	<u>Special Day</u>
Monday	December 30
Tuesday	December 31
Thursday	December 26
Friday	December 27

For more information on Solid Waste services, rates and locations, visit:
KilleenTexas.gov/SolidWaste.

HOME FOR THE HOWL-IDAYS

Killeen Animal Shelter remains full most of the year, so we look to the community to help us help these precious animals find their forever homes.

Dogs and cats of all ages, sizes and breeds find themselves in the Killeen shelter for all kinds of reasons in every season. The holidays bring gift-giving, and while a pet should never be given as a gift, the season may be a great time to bring a new pet in to your home.



Killeen Animal Shelter is located at 3118 Commerce Drive and is open for adoptions Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 4 pm. You may also view adoptable pets online anytime at KilleenTexas.gov/Animals.

If you've got room in your litter, please adopt from our shelter to give an animal a second chance.

WINTER SAFETY TIPS FROM THE CHIEFS

Police Chief Chuck Kimble wants residents to have a safe holiday season. He says following these thoughtful tips could keep you from falling victim of crime.



Holiday Shopping Safety

- Park in well-lighted areas close to your destination
- Do not leave packages or valuables visible in your car
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings
- If you feel uneasy, ask store security to escort you
- If you must use an ATM, use an inside location
- Pay with credit cards or checks; avoid carrying lots of cash

Home Safety

- Have a neighbor or family member watch your house while away
- Lock every door (including the garage door) while away, no matter how long you are gone and set your security alarm
- Place lights on timers; make it look like someone is home
- Place gifts where they can't be seen through doors or windows
- Beware of strangers at your door

Party Safety

- Arrange an official designated driver who will not drink at all
- Eat before consuming alcohol
- Be aware of your surroundings, and trust your instincts
- Know your safe limit
- If hosting a party, have non-alcoholic options

Fire Chief Brian Brank says fire hazards ramp up with the holidays and winter season. He offers the following advice to keep you and yours safe from harm.



Heat Safety

- Test smoke alarms monthly and change batteries when time changes
- Have all heating appliances checked professionally
- Have chimneys inspected and cleaned annually
- Open fireplace dampers when in use
- Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet away from heating sources

Cooking Safety

- Stay in the kitchen when cooking on the stovetop
- If frying turkey, make sure it is 100% thawed
- Do not overfill fryers with oil
- Turn the burner off before placing turkey in hot oil; relight after submerged
- Never use turkey fryers indoors or in covered/enclosed areas
- Let cooking oil cool completely before disposal

Decoration Safety

- Keep live Christmas trees watered and away from fire sources
- Choose decorations that are flame resistant
- Use indoor or outdoor lights only as directed
- Don't use lights with damaged cords
- Never leave candles unattended

ALERTS THAT WORK

Killeen doesn't have a lot of community-wide emergencies, but you don't want to be left out of the loop when big or small events happen.

The City has a number of ways to alert you when disaster threatens or strikes, and these systems are also used for day-to-day issues like service interruptions.

KilleenTexas.gov has an alert center that allows you to subscribe and select to receive notifications via text or email for water notices, road closures, news alerts and events.

CodeRed is a regional emergency alert system we can utilize to reach you via text, email or phone. To establish your account and select preferences for the types of alerts to receive, go to ReadyKilleen.org.

Killeen has 22 outdoor warning sirens that make an audible sound of alert. They are placed throughout the city and are intended to warn people who may be outdoors to go indoors. Monthly tests can be heard on the third Wednesday at 2 pm.

Finally, the City uses its website and social media outlets to post emergency information. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for alerts and more.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

November 11

Veterans Day

November 28-29

Thanksgiving Break

December 24-25

Christmas Break

January 1

New Year's Day

Emergency services continue without interruption.

Never Drink & Drive

HOLIDAY UNDER THE STARS



Holiday Under the Stars will light the night December 6 from 6 to 9 pm at Killeen Community Center. Join us for FREE, festive, family fun!

Santa will lead the annual silhouette tree lighting at dark. Activities will include a giant snow globe and live entertainment plus treats like s'mores and hot chocolate. Food and gift vendors will offer even more.

All the festive family fun is free, and details are being added daily, so be sure to like the City's Facebook page to get all the latest updates.

CHRISTMAS PARADE DECEMBER 14

The Killeen Christmas Parade returns to historic Downtown for the 57th time December 14 at 4:30 pm. Dozens of floats will be in the holiday spirit with the theme "Santa's Winter Camp."

The parade route marches proudly from Avenue D and College Street to Gray Street, Sprott Avenue, 2nd Street then to its end at Avenue B. A route map is available online.

Spectators should come early to secure the best parking and viewing spots and to enjoy festive food provided by vendors along the route.

FLY WITH US

Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport invites you to hop on one of its many daily flights this holiday season.

GRK is the code to Killeen's airport and your ticket to anywhere in the world via American or United.

Efficient parking, check-in and baggage claim are some of the many reasons to fly Killeen, and our rates are more competitive than ever.

Skip the hustle, bustle and hassle this holiday season and Fly Killeen!



LET IT GLOW

Is your house merry and bright during the holidays? Enter it in the annual outdoor decorating contest to be crowned best in town!

Entering is simple. Decorate your home, take a great digital photo and complete the online entry form at KilleenTexas.gov/Volunteer by December 9.

Winners will be decided by the public during online voting December 11 through 17. When the votes are tallied and fan favorites are decided, winners will be announced publicly December 20.

For more information, call Volunteer Services at 501-7878.

THE HOLIDAYS ARE HAPPENING IN KILLEEN

*Stay in the loop on
all the festive fun!*

**KilleenTexas.gov
[Facebook.com/KilleenTexas](https://www.facebook.com/KilleenTexas)
[Twitter.com/CityofKilleen](https://twitter.com/CityofKilleen)**

SHARING IS CARING

The City of Killeen and H-E-B are hosting the 12th annual Feast of Sharing, and you're invited to enjoy the community meal December 17 from 4 to 8 pm at the Civic and Conference Center.

All are welcome for holiday favorite foods provided by H-E-B and served by the community to the community. The meal and an evening of fun and entertainment are free, and there will be plenty for all to share, so bring family and friends.

Volunteers are needed to make this program possible. Go to KilleenTexas.gov/Volunteer to learn how you can serve at this event and throughout the year.

JINGLE ALL THE WAY

Ready, set, jingle! All the way to the finish line at the Jingle Bell Dash 5K December 7 at 8 am at Killeen Community Center.

Register now for the final 2019 Cen-Tex Race Series race at **KilleenTexas.gov/Centex**.

Dear Santa,

Santa's Helpers are delivering letters from Killeen boys and girls to the big man! Drop your child's letter in the box at the Community Center between December 2 and 13, and elves will get it to Jolly Old Saint Nick.

Address letters to:
**Santa Claus c/o
the North Pole.**

Don't forget to include your return address so Santa can write back!